

Appl. No. : 09/847,759
Filed : May 2, 2001

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Attendees, Date and Type of Interview

The interview was conducted on August 4, 2009 and attended by Examiner Strimbu and Applicant's counsel, Michael Giuliana.

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

N/A

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 1 and 20.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Dickson, Buday, Wagner

Proposed Amendments

During the interview, Applicant's counsel proposed amending Claim 1 to include recitations of plate members. Additionally, Applicant's counsel proposed amending Claim 20 to include recitations directed to the pairs of support legs and cross members (or horizontal rods) connecting the upper ends of the support legs, the pair of support legs and the crossmembers extending in a plane.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

During the interview, Applicant's counsel explained that some of the claims of the present Application are directed to a shelving device that can be used for dispensing beverage cans either sitting on a shelf of a cooler or hanging from the bottom of another shelf. For example, certain of the claims are directed to a shelving device including at least two plate members that extend laterally along rod members and across the shelving device and which define a first plane upon which another shelf can be supported where the panel members can also be used to hang the shelf from another shelf above it. None of the prior art references teach or suggest such shelf unit.

Further, some of the improvements disclosed in the present Application are directed to certain structural enhancements that improve the durability of the shelf when it is being used in a hanging arrangement. For example, certain of the claims are directed to embodiments in which

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the support legs extend upwardly from the beverage support surface to other devices configured to hang the shelf from another structure. This is an improvement over prior art references such as Dickson in which the shelf structure is hung only from its uppermost frame members. Thus, as explained during the interview, the shelf of Dickson could suffer from a problem of bending of the upper rod members 19.

Results of Interview

No agreement was reached.